

Message Text

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PAGE 01 ROME 07532 241542Z
ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SSO-00 INRE-00 NSCE-00 ICAE-00
CIAE-00 PM-05 H-01 INR-10 L-03 NSAE-00 PA-01
SP-02 SS-15 HA-05 MCT-01 IO-13 ACDA-12 COME-00
/081 W

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FM AMEMBASSY ROME
TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 2305
INFO AMEMBASSY BONN
COMSIXTHFLT
DIA
AMCONSUL FLORENCE
AMCONSUL GENOA
AMEMBASSY LONDON
AMCONSUL MILAN
AMCONSUL NAPLES
AMCONSUL PALERMO
AMEMBASSY PARIS
SHAPEUSNR
USCINCEUR VAIHINGEN GERMANY
USDOCOSOUTH
USMISSION USNATO
AMEMBASSY VIENNA
AFOSI DIST 65 ROME IT/IVOA
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E.O. 11652: NA
TAGS: PINT,IT
SUBJECT: LATEST RED BRIGADE COMMUNIQUE DEMANDS IMMEDIATE
RELEASE OF 13 PRISONERS TO SAVE MORO'S LIFE

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PAGE 02 ROME 07532 241542Z

1. NEWSPAPERS IN ROME, TURIN, MILAN AND GENOA RECEIVED ANOTHER
MESSAGE FROM THE RED BRIGADES (RB) ON APRIL 24 THAT APPEARS TO
DASH HOPES THAT ALDO MORO'S RELEASE MIGHT BE NEGOTIATED ON A
HUMANITARIAN BASIS. THE LATEST COMMUNIQUE, THE EIGHTH,
DEMANDS THE IMMEDIATE RELEASE OF 13 JAILED TERRORISTS IN EX-
CHANGE FOR MORO'S LIFE. AMONG THOSE TO BE RELEASED IS RENATO
CURCIO, A FOUNDER OF THE RED BRIGADES WHO IS CURRENTLY STANDING

TRIAL IN TURIN WITH 14 OTHERS. THE MESSAGE STATES THAT THE RB POSITION HAS BEEN "COMPLETELY DEFINED" AND THAT ONLY "AN IMMEDIATE AND POSITIVE REPLY BY THE DC AND THE GOVERNMENT" WILL SAVE MORO'S LIFE.

2. THE MESSAGE WAS RECEIVED NEARLY TWO DAYS AFTER AN EARLIER TERRORIST ULTIMATUM EXPIRED ON APRIL 22 WHICH THREATENED TO EXECUTE MORO IF THE DC DIDN'T ENTER DIRECT NEGOTIATIONS TO FREE "ALL" EXTREME-LEFT PRISONERS IN ITALIAN JAILS. THE ABSENCE OF ANY NEW MESSAGE FROM THE RB HAD ENCOURAGED SPECULATION THAT INDIRECT NEGOTIATIONS MIGHT BE UNDERWAY. THE UNUSUAL PERSONAL MESSAGE FROM POPE PAUL, THE APPEAL MADE BY UN LEADERS, AND THE OFFER BY UN SECRETARY GENERAL WALDHEIM TO MAKE HIMSELF AVAILABLE IN A HUMANITARIAN EFFORT TO SEEK MORO'S RELEASE HAD ALL CONTRIBUTED TO AN EASING OF TENSIONS. THE HOPE THAT THE RB MIGHT BE WILLING TO NEGOTIATE ON THE BASIS OF SOMETHING OTHER THAN A PRISONER EXCHANGE (WHICH THE DC AND THE GOVERNMENT HAVE CONSISTENTLY AND FIRMLY RULED OUT) WAS FURTHER ENCOURAGED BY CURCIO'S DEFENSE LAWYER (AND RUMORED GO-BETWEEN) GIANNINO GUIZO WHO COMMENTED THAT THE POPE'S APPEAL AND WALDHEIM'S MESSAGE APPEARED TO HAVE CHANGED THE SITUATION.

3. THE NEW TERRORIST MESSAGE, HOWEVER, REJECTS ALL THOSE APPEALS. FIRST, IN REPLY TO THE DC, IT SPECIFICALLY TURNS DOWN PARTY SECRETARY ZACCAGININI'S DESIGNATION OF CARITAS INTERNATIONAL AS THE DC'S CHOSEN INSTRUMENT TO ASCERTAIN THE RB'S DEMANDS
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PAGE 03 ROME 07532 241542Z

"ON BEHALF OF THE FAMILY".
"IN THE PRESENT STATE OF THINGS," THE NEW MESSAGE STATES, "WE DO NOT NEED ANY INTERMEDIARY". IF THE DC WISHES TO DESIGNATE CARITAS AS ITS REPRESENTATIVE AND AUTHORIZE IT TO NEGOTIATE THE RELEASE OF POLITICAL PRISONERS, THE COMMUNIQUE ADDED, "LET THEM DO SO EXPLICITLY AND PUBLICLY". THE RB MESSAGE GOES ON TO REJECT THE APPEALS OF THE POPE AND INTERNATIONAL ORGANIZATIONS, ACCUSING THEM OF SEEKING TO SUPPORT THE DC ON BEHALF OF THE "NATIONAL AND INTERNATIONAL IMPERIALIST BOURGEOISIE, INCLUDING THAT OF AMERICAN AND EUROPEAN ORGANIZATIONS," RATHER THAN BEING MOTIVATED BY HUMANITARIAN CONSIDERATIONS.

4. THE COMMUNIQUE STATES THAT THE RB CONTINUE TO SEEK THE RELEASE OF ALL "COMMUNIST" PRISONERS, BUT THAT "REALISTICALLY," IT MUST SELECT THE HIGHEST PRIORITY CASES. THE FOLLOWING ARE LISTED:

--MARIO ROSSI, GIUSEPPE BATTAGLIA, AUGUSTO VIEL
OF THE OCTOBER XXII GROUP ACTIVE IN GENOA AREA.
--DOMENICO DELLI VERNERI, PASQUALE ABATANGELO,
GIOGIO PANIZZARI, OF THE "NUCLEAR ARMED
PROLETARIAT" (NAP).
--MAURIZIO FERRARI, ALBERTO FRANCESCHINI, RENATO CURCUQ,

ROBERTO OGNIBENE, PAOLA BESU SCHIO, AND CRISTOFORO
PIANCONE, OF THE REF BRIGADES (RB). IN ADDITION TO CURCIO,
OGNIBENE, FRANCESCHINI AND FERRARI ARE DEFENDENTS IN THE
TURIN TRIAL. PIANCONE IS THE BR TERRORIST UNJURED IN THE APRIL
11 MURDER OF A TURIN PRISON GUARD.

--SANTE NOTARNICOLA, A COMMON CRIMINAL WHO REPORTEDLY
JOINED THE TERRORIST MOVEMENT WHILE IN PRISON.

5. THE DC HAS ANNOUNCED THAT IT DOES NOT PLAN TO CONVENE AN
EMERGENCY MEETING OF PARTY LEADERS TO DISCUSS THE LATEST ULTIMATUM.
DEPUTY SECRETARY GALLONI TOLD THE PRESS THAT THE DECISIONS
ALREADY TAKEN BY THE SECRETARIAT REMAINED VALID. "WE HAVE NOTHING
NEW TO DELIBERATE, TO ADD, OR TO REVIEW", HE SAID. A SPOKESMAN
FOR PCI SECRETARY BERLINGUER TOOK A SIMILAR LINE: THE PCI'S
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PAGE 04 ROME 07532 241542Z

POSITION (AGAINST NEGOTIATIONS) WAS WELL KNOWN: NO SPECIAL
MEETING OR STATEMENT IS PLANNED. WHILE THERE HAS BEEN NO
OFFICIAL GOVERNMENT REACTION, THE POSITION TAKEN BY
THE DC APPEARS TO RULE OUT ANY RECONSIDERATION OF A PRISONER
RELEASE.GARDNER

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